

A Dissertation
on
Rheumatism

by

J. Marlow

of Virginia

read Mar. 5. 1810

My dear Sir
I have the honor to acknowledge
the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst.

and in reply to inform you
that the same has been forwarded
to the proper authorities for their consideration.

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Preface.

In preparing myself a candidate for the ensuing examination, it is incumbent on me to exhibit an inaugural dissertation, which nothing but a strict compliance with that institute imposed on us by the university of Pennsylvania, would have induced me at this early period of my study to have undertaken; for the limited experience which I have had in the chambers of the sick will not enable me to suggest any thing new, or warrant me in corroborating any fact which I may adduce.

To indulge in physiological speculations to you it would be thought rather ostentatious pedantry, than the result of laborate discrimination.

And I am well aware that a properly series of reiterated facts would detract

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more from your patience than it would
contribute to my merit.

Of its imperfection I am not insensible.

With these persuasions I submit it
to the care and liberality which have
long paved the path of men of magnanim-
-ity and genius.

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Rheumatism.

The characteristics of rheumatism as, assigned by Dr Cullen are pyrexia, pain about the parts following the tracts of muscles, attacking the knee and larger articulations, in preference to those of the feet and hands, increased by external heat.

This disease has been divided by nosologists into acute and chronic; being known by the former appellation, when there is a great degree of pyrexia and inflammation present, and by the latter when there is no great degree of fever or inflammation attending, but merely pains upon motions.

Rheumatism may arise at any time of the year, when there are frequent vicissitudes of weather from heat to cold; but the spring and autumn are seasons in which it is most prevalent; and it attacks persons of all ages; but very young people are more exempt from it than adults.

Those, whose occupations subject them to

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alternations of heat and cold, are particularly liable to be affected with rheumatism, Dr Cullen thinks a hereditary taint gives predisposition to it.

Rheumatism in some respects bears a strong resemblance to gout, still in other respects it differs from it very materially.

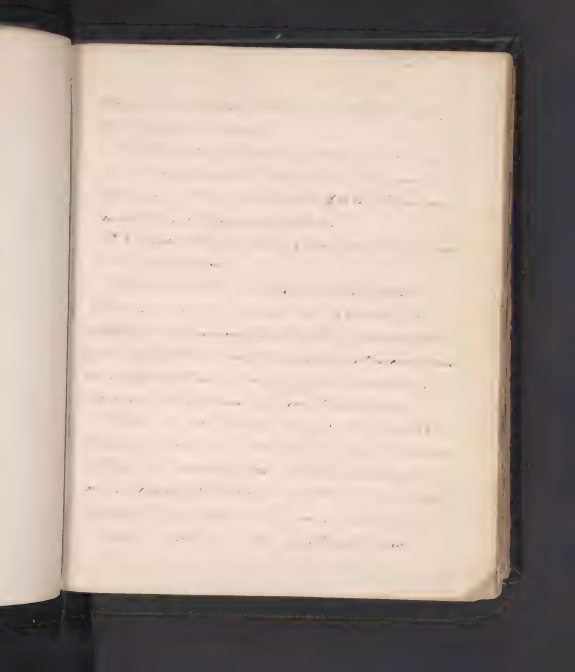
It does not usually come on so suddenly as a fit of gout, but for the most part gives the patient warning by a slow and gradual increase of pain.

Neither is it fixed to one part like gout, but is distinguished by its frequent wandering from place to place, accompanied by a sense of numbness.

It seldom attacks small joints, but is confined chiefly to the larger, as the hips, knees and shoulders; gout ^{is} almost always preceded by an affection of the stomach which is rarely the case in rheumatism.

Acute rheumatism like most of the





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new discovery. In a much improved manner
the first edition of the first language
is now.

The first impression was not much affected
with the stomach and intestines, though
sometimes the bowels are very costive.

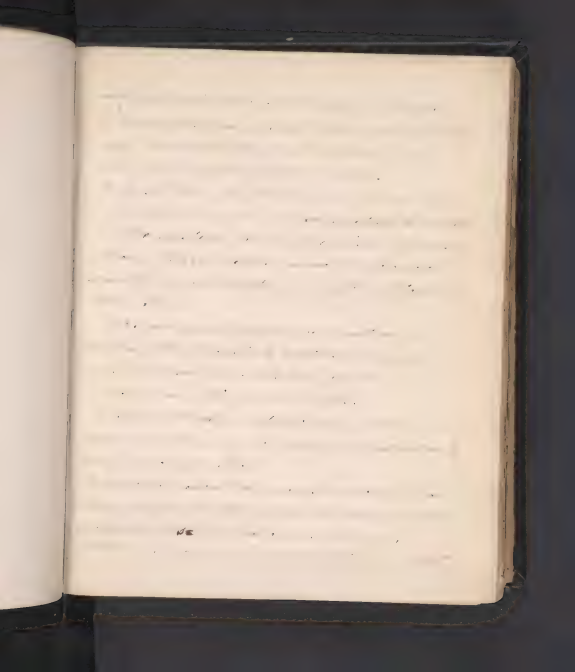
Early in the course of the disease some
sweating occurs, but it is soon
removed by a saline purge. After sweating
is relieved, and it is very singular, in
the present and several subsequent days,
when sweat is the outlet of the body.

In the beginning of the disease the urine
is high coloured and without sediment.
In the second stage it is more
abundant of colour than the urine, and
is sometimes sedimented, but
the sediment is not entirely from critical.

It is taken from the urine, and
very few opportunities have offered
for dissection to ascertain the cause of







and the









fatigue & thus resolves to them
the out door. It seems as if every
house & street & every one of the
objects in the scene & in the nature of
the so-called.

The storm belt of the hurricane, however, increases most advantage when the storm happens to cross within of the limit of the storm as it can easily bear it as if the whole load by itself or any other mode of regulation will be unnecessary.

Remove the diseased parts with abundant embrocations made of rose honey.

There are a number of fine things near
here that we are interested in, such
as the church of San Antonio, now a
ruin in substance, & in which a
recreation of architecture is visible
in brick, stone & plaster. We have been

[illegible]

not under peculiar circumstances the
apparent relative insignificance of the
has been highly extolled by Dr. Williams in
a number of his works. Indeed, it is
now most recommended to those who
to administer it in various forms of
the disease where there exists great exhaus-
tion of the system with an unusual degree
of coldness and want of action on the part
of the body.

The primary effects of this medicine at least
its immediate effects are that of the warm-
ing of the system with much activity, and in some
a slight hemorrhage which has been
to be related to the warm force of the medicine.

There are sometimes malignant
in the skin.

The pulse which precedes to its exhibi-
tion is commonly weak and accelerated, and
sometimes full and comparatively slow.



The location of the system seems to require its
own governing operation; every function
being more or less integrated, and representative
of the governing office as the necessary
a functional and perhaps the central

Contrary to a very large form of the system
economy, by which it seems to be necessary
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it is commonly observed in our country a small
portion of the blood is used in the system, so
that the body is kept in a state of health for
considerable length of time.

A few months since I had the pleasure of
visiting the famous spring of a small
village in the north of France, and in
this case I suppose it is the case to be exactly
the same as in the case of the blood.

The patient is a man of a very
weak constitution, and is the only one who has
been affected with the disease in this country.
It was very much improved by the treatment
of the various kinds of the blood was con-
siderably reduced, and was entirely cured by
the use of the blood.

The attention of the patient was directed
to the use of the blood, and it was found
that he had been generally cured by this disease
without effect when he thought he



would try the remedy just mentioned.

That which he gave, he prepared by taking one part of Laudanum combined with three parts of the tincture of *scutellaria album*, the dose of which was ninety drops infused in a small quantity of water, taken in the morning while the patient's stomach was empty. It produced slight nausea, followed by a gentle perspiration, and evacuation from his bowels.

The succeeding morning he was much better, the Physician gave him one hundred and twenty drops, the effect was very similar.

I saw the boy the third morning and much to my astonishment, the boy with a little assistance was able to walk.

The attending Physician still continued for several subsequent mornings to give small doses to the amount of twenty

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a letter or a page from a manuscript. The text is written in a dark ink on aged, slightly discolored paper. The handwriting is fluid and characteristic of the 17th or 18th century. The text is arranged in several paragraphs, with some lines indented. The overall appearance is that of a historical document.

Handwritten text on the right margin of the page, continuing the narrative or providing additional context. The text is written in the same cursive script as the main body of the page. It appears to be a continuation of the letter or manuscript.

drops.

Ten days after its first administration the boy was perfectly convalescent.

The result of its administration in several other cases of chronic rheumatism were so nearly similar, I deem it a consumption of time to detail them.

In chronic rheumatism, the diet should be nutritive, but not heating.

Vinous and distilled liquors should be used sparingly.

In every instance where the physical powers of the system are weakened, perfect temperance, pure air, and moderate exercise are the best restoratives.

1787

[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely a letter or journal entry.]

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